

Water Words

V

Vadose zone:

The zone between land surface and the water table where the moisture content is less than saturation (except in the capillary fringe) and pressure is less than atmospheric. Soil pore space also typically contains air or other gases. The capillary fringe is included in the vadose zone. (See Unsaturated zone)

Vapor plumes:

Flue gases that are visible because they contain water droplets.

Vegetative controls:

Non-point source pollution control practices that utilize vegetative cover to reduce erosion and minimize loss of pollutants.

Volatile Organic Compound (VOC):

A group of chemicals that react in the atmosphere with nitrogen oxides, heat and sunlight to form ozone; VOCs are referred to as hydrocarbons.

Volatility:

The tendency of a liquid to evaporate.

Volunteer Monitoring:

(See Citizen monitoring)